

April 3, 2009

Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)

**Vimark Vineyards
Trione Winery Project**

**Sonoma County
(WDID# 1B08075WNSO)**

On April 25, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Linda Taverner, on behalf of Vimark Vineyards, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Trione Winery Project (Project) located in Sonoma County. The proposed project causes permanent impacts to 720 sq. ft. (0.0165 acres) of linear waterways within the Geyserville Hydrologic Sub Unit No. 114.25, Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.00.

The proposed project is located at 19550 Geyserville Avenue in Geyserville, Sonoma County, California, (APN. No. 140-050-010). The Project Site is immediately east of Geyserville Avenue which parallels U.S. Highway 101. The latitude and longitude is 38.683° N and 122.867° W. The purpose of the Trione Winery Project is to install a pedestrian bridge and a vehicle bridge. In addition, the Northwest Pacific Railroad is requiring an additional three railroad culverts be installed to improve drainage.

The installation of two (2) bridges (a pedestrian bridge and a vehicle bridge) are proposed spanning an unnamed waterway tributary to the Russian River at the Project Site. The proposed 26 foot long, 6.5 feet wide pedestrian bridge is for a pedestrian path proposed for approximately 50 feet downstream of Geyserville Avenue. The waterway is approximately 9 feet deep at this point. The proposed 40 foot long, 22.5 feet wide vehicle bridge for the main driveway is proposed approximately 200 feet downstream of Geyserville Avenue. The waterway is approximately 10 feet deep at this point. No construction is proposed below the 100-year water surface elevation. In addition to the installation of 2 bridges, the Northwest Pacific Railroad is requiring a 30 inch diameter culvert be installed under the existing railroad tracks parallel to an existing 24 inch diameter culvert about 300 feet downstream of Geyserville Avenue. The proposed culvert is 25 feet long with headwalls on both sides. The waterway is approximately 6 feet deep at this point. In addition to the 30 inch culvert proposed within the existing berm, the railroad company is requiring replacement of two 18 inch diameter drainage culverts parallel to the railroad tracks and south of the watercourse. The culverts will be replaced in-kind with the same footprint as the existing culverts. Construction related to the winery improvement began in September 2007. Grading associated with the winery improvements along the south side of the waterway encroached in the vegetation of the drainage ditch. Also a temporary wooden foot bridge was installed for construction workers to cross in the same location the permanent footbridge will be installed. The installation of the 3 proposed culverts is scheduled for late spring early Summer 2009. The waterway drains through the Project and adjacent winery vineyards, approximately 3,900 feet east towards the Russian River. Equipment and machinery that will be used to complete the project include a track excavator; backhoe, front and end loader, and

concrete pump truck. No water shall be present within the creek during the proposed work period.

Mitigation is proposed on-site and immediately off-site to the east along the drainage. 0.11 acres of compensatory mitigation for the loss of riparian habitat will include re-vegetation in 3 locations: 1) re-vegetation of the areas near the bridges; 2) along the length of the both sides of the drainage between Geyserville Avenue and the railroad; and 3) approximately 50 feet east of the railroad totaling approximately 310 linear feet of stream. In addition, exotic/invasive plant species, including periwinkle and German ivy, will be removed within these reaches. A Mitigation and Monitoring Plan that has been created to offset temporary and permanent impacts to waters of the State and monitor the success of the restoration efforts. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be employed during construction to minimize sediment production and prevent the movement of loose soil off-site. A Stormwater Mitigation Plan has been created to minimize construction related disturbances to water quality.

Monitoring and maintenance of the hydrologic performance and vegetation establishment will extend for 5 years. All monitoring results and photos will be provided in annual monitoring reports to the California Department of Fish and Game, and the Regional Water Board, each year for the first five years. Survival rate for planted vegetation within the mitigation areas shall be at least 85% at the end of five years. Native species shall be used for the revegetation. Final planting plans showing locations of all plantings and mitigation areas shall be included in the yearly reports.

This Project does not contain suitable habitat for special status animal or plant species in the vicinity of the project.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the final project plans in order to reduce and control soil erosion. All construction in and around waters of the state will be conducted during the dry season (April 15th to October 15th), to minimize construction related impacts to hydrology and water quality.

The Trione Winery (Project) is scheduled to begin Spring of 2009 and end in Summer of 2009. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653, or at sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of posting of this notice.

This is a brief summary of this project; all related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.